

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9732

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3623

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: FINAL VISITS

1. SAW LAST OF TWO MINISTERS OF SIX-MAN GOVERNMENT TODAY, APRIL 22. (THOSE ALREADY SEEN WERE PRIMIN KARAME, CHAMOUN, GHASN TUEINI AND FONMIN TAQLA.) THESE WERE MINISTER OF ECONOMY OSSEIRAN, REPRESENTING SHIITE COMMUNITY AND HEALTH MINISTER ARSLAN, DRUZE REPRESENTATIVE AND OLD RIVAL OF FELLOW DRUZE JUMBLATT.

2. OSKSEIRAN ABOUT 75; SPEAKS ERUDITE ENGLISH. BLAMES MOST OF LEBANON'S WOES ON PALESTINIANS AND FAILURE OF FRANGIE TO CONTROL THEM WHEN HE COULD. CONSIDERS FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION IMPERATIVE. PLANS TO ADVOCATE PUBLICLY THAT MARONITE PATRIARCH BE NAMED AS NEXT PRESIDENT WHOM HE RESPECTS AS PERSON OF INTELLIGENCE, MODERATION AND TOLERANCE.

3. ARLSAN IS ABOUT 80. AN OLD DRUZE WARRIER WHO TOOK PART IN THE 1943 REVOLT AGAINST THE FRENCH. HAD PRESENT WITH HIM TWO DEPUTIES FROM HIS GROUP, ONE OF WHOM IS DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT (ABU-FADEL). UNDERSTANDABLY, ARSLAN WAS FOE EVERYTHING JUMBLATT IS AGAINST. HE BLAMED MOST OF HIS COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS ON THE PALESTINIANS. HE IS FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CRISIS AND AGAINST SECULARIZATION. JUMBLATT'S REFORMS ARE ALL RIGHT BUT IT SHOULD TAKE 50 YEARS TO IMPLEMENT THEM. ARSLAN LOVES FRANGIE BUT THINKS HE SHOULD RESIGN. WANTS NEW ELECTIONS

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QUICKLY BUT BELIEVES JUMBLATT IS AGAINST THIS. DECRIES COM-

MUNIST INFLUENCE IN COUNTRY.

4. HOPE TO SEE JUMBLATT TODAY. HAVE 9 O'CLOCK APPOINTMENT
WITH FRANGIE TOMORROW IN JOUNIE--HELICOPTER WEATHER PERMIT-
TING. MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL TO BE
THERE AS WELL. WILL THEN RETURN TO BEIRUT AIRPORT AND TAKE OFF
FOR LONDON.
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